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Dated: March 26, 2003

Signature: Roger A. Heppermann

Roger A. Heppermann

Docket No.: 30203/37263
(PATENT)

MAR 31 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Prick et al.

Application No.: 09/905,736

Group Art Unit: 2873

Filed: July 13, 2001

Examiner: M. Abutatyeh

For: Optical Switch with Moveable Holographic Optical
Element

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

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In response to the Office Action dated November 26, 2002, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph on page 6, lines 15-27 with the following

paragraph:

By way of background and to explain the general operation of HOEs used with optical substrates, FIG. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of an HOE 100. The HOE 100 is described in detail in co-pending application entitled "Integrated Transparent Substrate and Diffractive Optical Element", Serial No. 09/905,769, filed on July 13, 2001, assigned the same inventors, which is incorporated herein by reference. The HOE 100 is disposed on an optical substrate 102, which in the preferred embodiment is optically transparent in the infrared region at least around 1550 nm or 1310 nm (vacuum wavelength), transmission wavelengths desirable for optical communications. The substrate 102 could be optically transparent at any desired wavelength, however. The substrate 102 may be made of a quartz material or another substrate material suitable for propagating a signal under TIR and for serving as an etch-stop surface for a photolithography process. In the preferred embodiment, the substrate 102 is made of sapphire.

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